

18 January 1961

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

1997

CUBAN [REDACTED]

Havana is making a new effort to eliminate the potential threat posed by anti-Castro guerrillas in the mountains of central Cuba. There are some indications that Fidel Castro himself is directing the anti-guerrilla operations. The new drive is evidently motivated by recognition that as long as there remains a rallying point inside Cuba, the resistance could snowball into a major effort, as Castro's own experience proved.

[REDACTED] reports of stepped-up operations in the Escambray Mountains of Las Villas Province and increasing numbers of guerrilla casualties.

[REDACTED] acts of terrorism directed against government forces and continuing acts of sabotage, not only in this area, but in other parts of the island as well.

Cuban propaganda is making heavy play of the alleged tortures to which an "innocent" Cuban worker on the Guantanamo Navy Base was subjected by base authorities on 6 January. The worker was, in fact, apprehended on leaving the base with copies of half the base workers' pay receipts hidden in the false bottom of a milk carton. He was interrogated, but not physically harmed, and was released the next day. Subsequent [REDACTED] indicating that he was unconscious in a Cuban hospital suggest that he may have been subjected to mistreatment by Cuban interrogators after he left the base.

Base authorities believe their investigation has uncovered the Cuban G-2 network on the base and that as many as 70 of the more than 3,000 Cuban base employees may be G-2 operatives.

There was a smaller turnout than usual at the 14 January rally in Havana, called to obtain the "peoples' ratification" of government preparations to resist the "imperialist invasion" the government had been describing as imminent for more than two weeks. Fidel Castro and President Dorticos explained, in the former's words, that "any criminal surprised in the act of committing a crime can be stopped before he commits it," thus implying that Cuba's preparedness had stopped the invasion.

It was announced at the rally that the "national mobilization" would be continued through 20 January, and the hope was expressed that the new administration in the United States would "make rectifications" toward Cuba. However, Castro went on, "the headache is not ours.... If there is no rectification, that is also very good. We will continue our unalterable determination and we will be stronger, better armed, better trained every day."